

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 990
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Coulter Florists for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary business institutions which, through their professional excellence and civic improvement, have brought great honor upon themselves, their communities, and this State; and

WHEREAS, Coulter Florists in Maryville is one such estimable business which has been serving Blount County as well as the surrounding counties for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1896 by Charles R. Coulter, Sr. and his wife, Nancy Milsaps Coulter, Coulter Florists was the first florist in Blount County; and

WHEREAS, Coulter Florists has continued to be operated by members of the same family and at the same location since it first opened its doors; and

WHEREAS, in addition to foral arrangments, one of the Coulter specialties from the early days was cultivation and sale of strawberries; and

WHEREAS, as the business grew, new services were added and, in 1915, the Coulters purchased a Ford Model T truck and began making deliveries to Madisonville, Englewood, Copperhill, Ducktown, Sevierville, and parts of western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, drawing inspiration from the original greenhouse built by Baums, Mr. Coulter constructed the first of five greenhouses more than six decades ago; today's greenhouses are filled with the beauty of chrysanthemums throughout the year, poinsettias during the winter holiday season, Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils, and blooming azaleas during the spring, hydrangeas in May, as well as a variety of other types of plant life throughout the seasons; and

WHEREAS, holding the distinction of being the first retail florist in the United States to be accepted into the prestigious Chain of Life Organization, Coulter Florists continues to provide excellence in floral service to the citizens of Maryville and the surrounding areas; a dedication to such excellence has gained Coulter Florists inclusion in the top 250 florists in the world; and

WHEREAS, a member of Teleflora, Florafax, American Floral Services, and Florists Telegraph Delivery, Coulter Florists is presently operated by Kenneth Coulter and his granddaughters, Kenna Garner and Kim Stafford; and

WHEREAS, providing quality service for over a century and promoting the economic growth of the city of Maryville, Coulter Florists is a landmark business that is a great source of pride for this State and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Coulter family and Coulter Florists for their meritorious service to the citizens of Maryville and the State of Tennessee and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.